

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

January 15, 2004

IN RE:)	
)	
PETITION OF AT&T COMMUNICATIONS)	DOCKET NO.
OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL STATES INC.)	97-00889
FOR THE CONVENING OF A GENERIC)	
CONTESTED CASE FOR THE PURPOSE)	
OF ACCESS CHARGE REFORM)	

ORDER ACCEPTING WITHDRAWAL OF PETITION

This matter came before Director Pat Miller, Director Sara Kyle and Director Ron Jones of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "TRA" or "Authority"), the voting panel assigned to this docket, at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on November 10, 2003 for consideration of the request to withdraw the *Petition of AT&T Communications of the South Central States, Inc. for the Convening of a Generic Contested Case for the Purpose of Access Charge Reform* ("Petition").

AT&T Communications of the South Central States, Inc. ("AT&T") filed its *Petition* with the Authority on April 15, 1997, requesting a contested case be initiated to address access charge reform. AT&T wanted access rates to be reduced to cost, claiming that existing access rates were excessive and economically inefficient because they were priced far in excess of their related costs. AT&T asserts that the large amount of access revenues provided to incumbent local exchange companies (ILECs) allowed such companies to cross subsidize other services, thereby encouraging anti-competitive behavior.

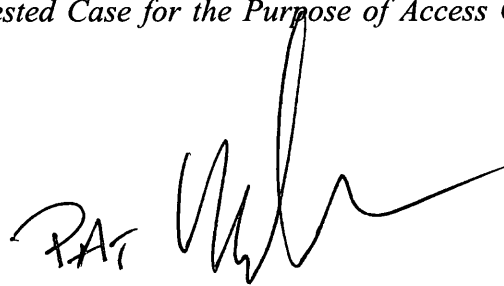
This docket has run concurrent with the Authority's pending docket *In Re: Universal Service Generic Contested Case*, TRA Docket No. 97-00888 ("*Universal Service*"). In the *Universal Service* docket the Authority reasoned that if a high cost fund for universal service was needed to support certain areas, ILEC rates might need to be rebalanced in order to develop an appropriate universal support mechanism. At this time, the Authority has not determined that a high cost universal service fund is necessary.

On October 3, 2003, AT&T filed a request for withdrawal of its *Petition*, stating that the issues involved could adequately be addressed in other dockets pending before the Authority.

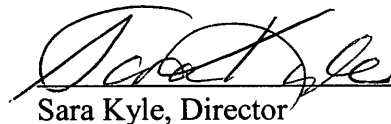
During the Conference held on November 10, 2003, upon consideration of the entire record in this matter, the panel voted unanimously to approve the request to withdraw the *Petition* in its entirety.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The request to withdraw the *Petition of AT&T Communications of the South Central States, Inc. for the Convening of a Generic Contested Case for the Purpose of Access Charge Reform* is approved, and this docket is closed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "PAT" followed by a stylized, flowing script.

Pat Miller, Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara Kyle" in a cursive script.

Sara Kyle, Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Jones" in a bold, stylized script.

Ron Jones, Director